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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE

New Tourism Director Joins DEDO

DOVER, Del. (Aug. 27, 2008) – The Delaware Tourism Office, part of the Delaware Economic Development Office, announced today the appointment of Linda Parkowski as the state’s new director of tourism. In her new role, Parkowski will be responsible for recruiting tourism-related businesses and jobs to the state. She will also recruit major events to attract more overnight visitors to the state of Delaware.

Parkowski joins DEDO with 16 years of business and sales experience as the general manager of the Sheraton Dover Hotel, one of the state’s largest hotels and one of only two full-service hotels in Kent County, Del. Linda was the first woman elected by her peers to the Sheraton Franchise Council, a position she held from 1995- 1999. During her tenure with the hotel, Parkowski oversaw the addition the property’s meeting and convention space, recruited several conventions, and managed the completion of an extensive \$7 million renovation project. Prior to the Sheraton, Parkowski was the club manager for Wild Quail Golf and Country Club in Wyoming, Del.

“Linda is a knowledgeable, highly respected business professional in Delaware’s tourism industry, who will undoubtedly sell the state’s strengths to targeted markets and industry decision-makers nationwide,” said Judy McKinney-Cherry, director of the Delaware Economic Development Office.

Her volunteer contributions for various tourism-related organizations include: Governor Ruth Ann Minner’s Tourism Advisory Board, Chairwoman (2006 – 2008); Kent County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Board of Directors (2000 - 2008); Delaware Tourism Alliance, Founder and Board of Directors, Chairwoman (2002 -2004), Legislative Co-Chair (2004-2008); Delaware Hotel & Lodging Association, Board of Directors, Chairwoman (1999-2001), Legislative Chair (2004-2008); and, Greater Dover Committee (2005 – 2008).

“I have had the pleasure of working with the talented group of professionals at the Delaware Tourism Office for many years so it is especially exciting to join the team,” said Linda Parkowski. “Together with this team and our many industry partners, I will work to attract, develop, and promote tourism business development opportunities that result in sustainable and significant economic growth and employment for Delaware. I plan to update the strategic plan for the office which will include goals to

attract new tourism-related businesses to Delaware, identify opportunities to grow existing businesses through new product offerings, and modernize training programs to meet the objectives of tourism business employers in the state.”

Parkowski attended the University of New Haven in Connecticut where she received her bachelor’s degree in psychology with a minor in business management. In addition to her degree, Parkowski is a Certified Hotel Administrator. In 2007, Parkowski was awarded the Governor’s Tourism Awareness Award, recognizing her significant contribution in promoting the benefits of tourism to Delaware’s residents.

About Delaware Tourism Office

The Delaware Tourism Office, a division of the Delaware Economic Development Office, promotes tourism and economic growth in Delaware. The Office is dedicated to fulfilling the requests and needs of travelers by offering information and resources about Delaware activities, attractions and destinations. For more information, visit the official Delaware Tourism Web site at www.VisitDelaware.com or call toll-free 866-284-7483.

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